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Infinite class of new sign ambiguities

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ABSTRACT

In 1934, two kinds of multiplicative relations, *the norm and the Davenport–Hasse relations*, between Gauss sums, were known. In 1964, H. Hasse conjectured that the norm and the Davenport–Hasse relations were the only multiplicative relations connecting Gauss sums over \mathbb{F}_p . However, in 1966, K. Yamamoto provided a simple counterexample disproving the conjecture. This counterexample was a new type of multiplicative relation, called a *sign ambiguity*, involving a \pm sign not connected to elementary properties of Gauss sums. In this paper, we give an explicit product formula involving Gauss sums which generates an infinite class of new sign ambiguities, and we resolve the ambiguous sign by using Stickelberger's theorem.

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1. Introduction

A *Gauss sum* is a particular kind of finite sum of roots of unity. The general theory of Gauss sums was developed in the early nineteenth century, with the use of Jacobi sums and their prime decomposition in cyclotomic fields.

Let $e > 2$ be a positive integer, and p a prime number such that $p \equiv 1 \pmod{e}$. Let \mathbb{F}_p be the finite field with p elements, γ a generator of the cyclic multiplicative group $\mathbb{F}_p^* = \mathbb{F}_p \setminus \{0\} = \{\gamma^k: 0 \leq k \leq p-2\}$. For any positive integer n , denote by ζ_n a fixed primitive n -th root of unity. Let χ be

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the multiplicative character on \mathbb{F}_p , defined by $\chi(\gamma^k) = \zeta_e^k$ (for any integer k) and $\chi(0) = 0$. For any integer $a \in \mathbb{Z}$, the Gauss sum $\tau(a)$, associated with χ^a is defined by

$$\tau(a) = \sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_p} \chi^a(t) \zeta_p^t.$$

If $a \not\equiv 0 \pmod{e}$, then $|\tau(a)| = p^{1/2}$ [1, Theorem 1.1.4]. A multiplicative relation between Gauss sums is a relation of the form $\prod_{a=1}^{e-1} \tau(a)^{c_a} = \eta$, where the $c_a \in \mathbb{Z}$ and η is a unit in $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_e)$. The fundamental multiplicative relations are:

The norm relation: for $a \not\equiv 0 \pmod{e}$,

$$\tau(a)\tau(-a) = \chi^a(-1)p. \quad (\text{NR})$$

The Davenport–Hasse product formula: for integers $m, n > 1$ such that $e = mn$ and for $1 \leq t \leq m-1$,

$$\chi^{tn}(n) \frac{\tau(t)}{\tau(tn)} \prod_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{\tau(km+t)}{\tau(km)} = 1. \quad (\text{DH})$$

H. Hasse [3, p. 465] conjectured that all the multiplicative relations between Gauss sums can be deduced from these two relations. But, K. Yamamoto [8] gave a counterexample amounting to a sign ambiguity of the type

$$\prod_{a=1}^{e-1} \tau(a)^{c_a} = u_p \zeta_e^k, \quad (\text{SA})$$

where $u_p \in \{\pm 1\}$ cannot be determined by the elementary properties of Gauss sums, the norm relation, and the Davenport–Hasse formula. Yamamoto also determined the structure of the module generated by all multiplicative relations modulo those generated by the norm and Davenport–Hasse relations. He showed that, for any integer $e \geq 3$, there are exactly $2^{r-1} - 1$ multiplicatively independent sign ambiguities of the type (SA), where r is the number of distinct prime divisors of e (resp. of $\frac{e}{2}$) if $e \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ (resp. if $e \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$).

In 2007, B. Murray [5] gave an infinite class of sign ambiguities when $e = q_1 q_2$, where q_1 and q_2 are prime numbers such that $q_1 \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$, $q_2 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and q_2 is a biquadratic residue modulo q_1 .

In the present paper, the authors give an infinite class of multiplicative relations between Gauss sums, in the case $e = 4q$ where q is a prime number such that $q \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$, yielding exactly one sign ambiguity for every prime p , not deducible from (NR) and (DH), resolved using Stickelberger's theorem.

2. Yamamoto's sign ambiguities

2.1. Half-sets

For any positive integers i and a , let

$$L_i(a) = \text{least nonnegative integer in } i\mathbb{Z} + a.$$

Definition 1. Fix $G = (\mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z})^\times$ with an order 2 binary operation $a \mapsto -a$. For $H \subset G$, let $-H = \{-a \mid a \in H\}$. A half-set H of G is a subset of G such that $H \cup (-H) = G$ and $H \cap (-H) = \emptyset$.

Definition 2. Let ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 be the natural maps

$$\phi_1 : G = (\mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z})^\times \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})^\times \quad \text{by } \phi_1(a) = a \pmod{4},$$

$$\phi_2 : G = (\mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z})^\times \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times \quad \text{by } \phi_2(a) = a \pmod{q}.$$

Definition 3. We will denote subsets of $(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})^\times$ and of $(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$ by Roman capital letters (possibly with subscripts), and the corresponding preimages under ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 respectively by the corresponding bold face capital letter. For example, for $A \subset (\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$, we define

$$\mathbf{A} = \{g \in G \mid \phi_2(g) \in A\}.$$

Remark 4. Note that the set of all quadratic residues modulo a prime number q can be a half-set of $(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$ when $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and that \mathbf{K}_1 and \mathbf{K}_2 are also half-sets of G .

Throughout the paper, let K_1 (resp. K_2) be the set consisting of the quadratic residues modulo 4 in $(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})^\times$ (resp. modulo q in $(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$), and fix K_1 , K_2 and \mathbf{K}_2 as the half-sets of $(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})^\times$, $(\mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z})^\times$ and G respectively.

Let O and E be the sets of odd and even numbers in K_2 respectively, and let

$$I_1 = \left\{ t \in K_2 \mid 1 \leq t \leq \frac{q-1}{2} \right\}, \quad I_2 = \left\{ t \in -K_2 \mid 1 \leq t \leq \frac{q-1}{2} \right\},$$

$$I_3 = I_1 \cup I_2, \quad M_1 = \left\{ t \in K_2 \mid \frac{q+1}{2} \leq t \leq q-1 \right\}.$$

Let $S = \#(\mathbf{K}_1 \cap (-\mathbf{K}_2))$, $m_1 = \#M_1$, and $n_1 = \#O$. For the remainder of this paper, we fix n_0 to be a rational number, defined as follows

$$n_0 = \frac{1}{2}(S + m_1 + n_1) - \frac{3\phi(e)}{8}.$$

In Proposition 9 we will see that n_0 is in fact an integer. In order to show this, we first need a few lemmas.

Example 5. Suppose $q = 7$, so $e = 28$. Then

$$(\mathbb{Z}/28\mathbb{Z})^\times = \{1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27\}.$$

Thus we have

$$K_1 = \{1\}, \quad K_2 = \{1, 2, 4\},$$

where all numbers are understood to be taken modulo the appropriate integer, i.e., 4 and 7 respectively. With these choices of K_1 and K_2 , we have

$$\mathbf{K}_1 = \{1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 25\}, \quad \mathbf{K}_2 = \{1, 9, 11, 15, 23, 25\}.$$

Remark 6. Fix q a prime number such that $q = 8l + 7$ for some nonnegative integer l . It follows from the law of quadratic residues that $\left(\frac{2}{q}\right) = 1$, where $\left(\frac{2}{q}\right)$ is the Legendre symbol. This implies that $\left(\frac{2t}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{t}{q}\right)$, since the Legendre symbol is multiplicative. Thus $2t$ is a quadratic residue (respectively nonresidue) if and only if t is a quadratic residue (respectively nonresidue).

Lemma 7. With m_1, n_1 as in Remark 4,

$$m_1 = n_1.$$

Proof. Define a function

$$g_1 : M_1 \rightarrow O \quad \text{by } g_1(t) = 2t.$$

From Remark 6, this function g_1 is a well-defined bijection. Thus $t \in K_2$ and $\frac{q+1}{2} \leq t \leq q-1$, i.e., $t \in M_1$ if and only if $2t$ is in K_2 and $2t - q$ is odd. This implies that the number of elements in M_1 is equal to the number of elements in O as desired. \square

Remark 8. Define a function

$$g_2 : \mathbf{K}_1 \cap (-\mathbf{K}_2) \rightarrow K_1 \times K_2, \quad \text{by } m \pmod{e} \mapsto (a, b),$$

where $m \equiv a \pmod{4}$, $m \equiv -b \pmod{q}$. Then g_2 is a bijection by the Chinese Remainder Theorem. This implies that $\sharp(\mathbf{K}_1 \cap (-\mathbf{K}_2)) = (\sharp K_1)(\sharp K_2)$. Note that $\sharp(\mathbf{K}_1 \cap \mathbf{K}_2) = \sharp(\mathbf{K}_1 \cap (-\mathbf{K}_2)) = \frac{q-1}{2} = \frac{\phi(e)}{4}$.

Proposition 9. The rational number n_0 is an integer.

Proof. By Lemma 7 and Remark 8, $n_0 = \frac{1}{2}(m_1 + n_1) + \frac{5}{2} - \frac{3\phi(e)}{8} = n_1 + \frac{\phi(e)}{8} - \frac{3\phi(e)}{8} = n_1 - \frac{\phi(e)}{4} = n_1 - \frac{q-1}{2}$, which is an integer because of our choice for q . \square

2.2. Some lemmas

For the remainder of this paper, we fix $a_1 = -1$, $a_2 = 2l + 2$ such that

$$4a_2 + qa_1 = 1.$$

Then $qa_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $4a_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$. Let $s_1 = 4L_q(\sum_{t \in K_2} t)$ and let

$$A = \frac{1}{\prod_{t \in M_1} \tau(4t) \prod_{t \in O} \tau(2q + 2t) \prod_{t \in I_3} \tau(4t)}, \quad (1)$$

$$B = \prod_{t \in O} \tau(q + t) \tau(3q + t) \prod_{t \in E} \tau(t) \tau(2q + t). \quad (2)$$

In [9], K. Yamamoto provided a formula for a sign ambiguity. We call it *Yamamoto's sign ambiguity*. We now reformulate his formula.

Lemma 10. With K_1 as in Remark 4,

$$\prod_{t \in K_1} DH_4^t = DH_4^1 = \chi^q(q) \chi(-1) p^{1 - \frac{\phi(e)}{4}} \frac{\prod_{t \in \mathbf{K}_1} \tau(t)}{\tau(q)^2}.$$

Proof. Note that for integers k and t , the congruence $k \equiv -a_2 t \pmod{q}$ is equivalent to $4k + t \equiv 0 \pmod{q}$, and when it holds, we have $4k + t \equiv a_1 q t = -q t \pmod{e}$.

Now consider the following (DH) relation for $e = mn$, $m = 4$, $n = q$ and $t \in K_1$:

$$\begin{aligned}
DH_4^t &= \chi^{qt}(q) \frac{\tau(t)}{\tau(qt)} \prod_{k=1}^{q-1} \frac{\tau(4k+t)}{\tau(4k)} \\
&= \chi^{qt}(q) \frac{\tau(t)}{\tau(qt)} \frac{\tau(4+t)\tau(8+t)\dots\tau(4(q-1)+t)}{\tau(4)\tau(8)\dots\tau(4(q-1))} \\
&= \chi^{qt}(q) p^{-\frac{q-1}{2}} \frac{1}{\tau(qt)} \prod_{k=0}^{q-1} \tau(4k+t) \quad \text{by (NR)} \\
&= \frac{\chi^{qt}(q) p^{-\frac{q-1}{2}}}{\tau(qt)} \tau(a_1 qt) \prod_{\substack{k=0 \\ 4k+t \not\equiv 0 \pmod{q}}}^{q-1} \tau(4k+t) \\
&= \chi^{qt}(q) p^{-\frac{q-1}{2}} \frac{p \chi^{qt}(-1)}{\tau(qt)^2} \prod_{\substack{k=0 \\ 4k+t \not\equiv 0 \pmod{q}}}^{q-1} \tau(4k+t) \quad \text{by (NR)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\prod_{t \in K_1} \prod_{\substack{k=0 \\ 4k+t \not\equiv 0 \pmod{q}}}^{q-1} \tau(4k+t) = \prod_{t \in K_1} \tau(t).$$

Since $K_1 = \{1\}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\prod_{t \in K_1} DH_4^t &= \prod_{t \in K_1} \chi^{qt}(q) \chi(-1) p^{1-\frac{\phi(e)}{4}} \frac{1}{\tau(qt)^2} \prod_{t \in K_1} \tau(t) \\
&= \chi^q(q) \chi(-1) p^{1-\frac{\phi(e)}{4}} \frac{\prod_{t \in K_1} \tau(t)}{\tau(q)^2}. \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we consider the (DH) relations when $e = mn$, $m = q$, $n = 4$ and $t \in K_2$.

Lemma 11. With B , K_2 as in Eq. (2), Remark 4, recall $s_1 = 4L_q(\sum_{t \in K_2} t)$ and let

$$J = \frac{B}{\prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(4t)}. \quad (3)$$

Then we have

$$\prod_{t \in K_2} DH_q^t = \chi^{s_1}(4) \chi(-1) p^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3\phi(e)}{8}} \cdot J \cdot \frac{\prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(t)}{\tau(2q)}. \quad (4)$$

Proof. Note that for integers k and t , $k \equiv -a_1 t \pmod{2} \Leftrightarrow qk + t \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$. We consider two different cases of the (DH) relations up to the parity of t in K_2 and of k in $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$, since $qk + t \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ if and only if either t is odd, $k \in \{1, 3\}$ or t is even, $k \in \{0, 2\}$.

Case (1): t is an odd integer in K_2 ;

$$\begin{aligned}
 DH_q^{\text{odd } t} &= \chi^{4t}(4) \frac{\tau(t)}{\tau(4t)} \prod_{k=1}^3 \frac{\tau(kq+t)}{\tau(kq)} \\
 &= \chi^{4t}(4) \frac{\tau(t)}{\tau(4t)} \frac{\tau(q+t)\tau(2q+t)\tau(3q+t)}{\tau(q)\tau(2q)\tau(3q)} \\
 &= \chi^{4t}(4) \frac{\chi^q(-1)p^{-1}}{\tau(4t)\tau(2q)} \prod_{k=0}^3 \tau(kq+t) \quad \text{by (NR)} \\
 &= \chi^{4t}(4) \frac{\chi(-1)p^{-1}\tau(q+t)\tau(3q+t)}{\tau(4t)\tau(2q)} \prod_{\substack{k=0 \\ kq+t \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2}}}^3 \tau(kq+t).
 \end{aligned}$$

Case (2): t is an even integer in K_2 ; Similarly, we have

$$DH_q^{\text{even } t} = \chi^{4t}(4) \frac{\chi(-1)p^{-1}\tau(t)\tau(2q+t)}{\tau(4t)\tau(2q)} \prod_{\substack{k=0 \\ kq+t \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2}}}^3 \tau(kq+t).$$

Note that

$$\prod_{t \in K_2} \prod_{\substack{k=0 \\ kq+t \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2}}}^3 \tau(kq+t) = \prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(t) \quad (5)$$

and that

$$\prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(2q) = \tau(2q)^{\#K_2} = \tau(2q)p^{\frac{\phi(e)}{8} - \frac{1}{2}}. \quad (6)$$

Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \prod_{t \in K_2} DH_q^t &= \prod_{t \in 0} \left(\chi(4)^{4t} \frac{\chi(-1)p^{-1}\tau(q+t)\tau(3q+t)}{\tau(4t)\tau(2q)} \prod_{\substack{k=0 \\ kq+t \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2}}}^3 \tau(kq+t) \right) \\
 &\quad \cdot \prod_{t \in E} \left(\chi(4)^{4t} \frac{\chi(-1)p^{-1}\tau(t)\tau(2q+t)}{\tau(4t)\tau(2q)} \prod_{\substack{k=0 \\ kq+t \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2}}}^3 \tau(kq+t) \right) \\
 &= \chi(-1)^{\#K_2} \cdot p^{-\#K_2} \cdot J \prod_{t \in K_2} \frac{\chi(4)^{4t}}{\tau(2q)} \prod_{t \in K_2} \prod_{\substack{k=0 \\ kq+t \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2}}}^3 \tau(kq+t) \\
 &= \chi(-1) \cdot p^{-\frac{\phi(e)}{4} - (\frac{\phi(e)}{8} - \frac{1}{2})} \cdot J \cdot \frac{\chi(4)^{4 \sum_{t \in K_2} t}}{\tau(2q)} \prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(t) \quad \text{by Eqs. (5), (6)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \chi(4)^{s_1} \cdot \chi(-1) \cdot p^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3\phi(e)}{8}} \cdot J \cdot \frac{\prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(t)}{\tau(2q)}. \quad \square$$

Lemma 12.

$$\prod_{t \in K_1} \tau(t) \prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(t) = \chi(-1)^{\sum_{t \in K_1 \cap (-K_2)} t} p^{\#(K_1 \cap (-K_2))} \prod_{t \in K_1 \cap K_2} \tau(t)^2.$$

Proof. Note that K_1, K_2 are also half-sets of G and that $\prod_{t \in (-K_1) \cap K_2} \tau(t) = \prod_{-t \in K_1 \cap (-K_2)} \tau(t) = \prod_{t \in K_1 \cap (-K_2)} \tau(-t) = \prod_{t \in K_1 \cap (-K_2)} \frac{p\chi^t(-1)}{\tau(t)}.$

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{t \in K_1} \tau(t) \prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(t) &= \prod_{t \in K_1 \cap K_2} \tau(t) \prod_{t \in (-K_1) \cap K_2} \tau(t) \prod_{t \in K_1 \cap K_2} \tau(t) \prod_{t \in K_1 \cap (-K_2)} \tau(t) \\ &= \prod_{t \in K_1 \cap (-K_2)} \frac{p\chi^t(-1)}{\tau(t)} \prod_{t \in K_1 \cap (-K_2)} \tau(t) \prod_{t \in K_1 \cap K_2} \tau(t)^2 \\ &= \prod_{t \in K_1 \cap (-K_2)} \frac{\chi^t(-1)p\tau(t)}{\tau(t)} \prod_{t \in K_1 \cap K_2} \tau(t)^2 \\ &= \chi(-1)^{\sum_{t \in K_1 \cap (-K_2)} t} p^{\#(K_1 \cap (-K_2))} \prod_{t \in K_1 \cap K_2} \tau(t)^2. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 13. With E, O as in Remark 4,

$$\prod_{h \in E} \tau(2h) \prod_{s \in O} \tau(2q - 2s) = \prod_{1 \leq t \leq \frac{q-1}{2}} \tau(4t). \quad (7)$$

Proof. Let $h \in E$. Then there exists $t, t \in I_1$ such that $h = 2t$ by Remark 6. This implies that $2h = 2(2t) = 4t$. From Lemma 7 every odd integer s in K_2 can be represented as $s = 2t - q$, where $t \in M_1$. Thus $2(q - s) = 2(q - (2t - q)) = 4(q - t)$ and $q - t \pmod{q} \in I_2$. \square

Lemma 14. With A as in (1), let

$$D = \frac{1}{\prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(4t) \prod_{t \in O} \tau(2q + 2t) \prod_{t \in E} \tau(2t)}.$$

Then we have

$$D = \left(p^{\frac{m_1 + n_1}{2}} A \right)^2.$$

Proof. Let

$$D_1 = \frac{1}{\prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(4t)} \quad \text{and} \quad D_2 = \frac{1}{\prod_{t \in O} \tau(2q + 2t) \prod_{t \in E} \tau(2t)}.$$

By using the norm relation, we can rewrite D_1 :

$$\begin{aligned}
D_1 &= \frac{1}{\prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(4t)} = \frac{1}{\prod_{t \in M_1} \tau(4t) \prod_{t \in I_1} \tau(4t)} \\
&= \frac{p^{m_1}}{(\prod_{t \in M_1} \tau(4t))^2 \prod_{t \in M_1} \tau(4q - 4t) \prod_{t \in I_1} \tau(4t)} \\
&= \frac{p^{m_1}}{(\prod_{t \in M_1} \tau(4t))^2 \prod_{t \in I_3} \tau(4t)} \quad \text{by Lemma 13.}
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can replace D_2 :

$$\begin{aligned}
D_2 &= \frac{1}{\prod_{t \in O} \tau(2q + 2t) \prod_{t \in E} \tau(2t)} \\
&= \frac{p^{n_1}}{(\prod_{t \in O} \tau(2q + 2t))^2 \prod_{t \in O} \tau(2q - 2t) \prod_{t \in E} \tau(2t)} \\
&= \frac{p^{n_1}}{(\prod_{t \in O} \tau(2q + 2t))^2 \prod_{t \in I_3} \tau(4t)} \quad \text{by Lemma 13.}
\end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned}
D &= \frac{p^{m_1}}{(\prod_{t \in M_1} \tau(4t))^2 \prod_{t \in I_3} \tau(4t)} \cdot \frac{p^{n_1}}{(\prod_{t \in O} \tau(2q + 2t))^2 \prod_{t \in I_3} \tau(4t)} \\
&= \left(\frac{p^{\frac{m_1 + n_1}{2}}}{\prod_{t \in M_1} \tau(4t) \prod_{t \in O} \tau(2q + 2t) \prod_{t \in I_3} \tau(4t)} \right)^2. \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

Finally, we will consider the following types of the (DH) relations when $m = 2q$, $n = 2$: For an odd t in K_2 ,

$$DH_{2q}^{q+t} = \chi^{2q+2t}(2) \frac{\tau(q+t)\tau(3q+t)}{\tau(2q+2t)\tau(2q)}$$

and for an even t in K_2 ,

$$DH_{2q}^t = \chi^{2t}(2) \frac{\tau(t)\tau(2q+t)}{\tau(2t)\tau(2q)}.$$

Lemma 15. With A , B and J as in (1), (2), (3), let

$$T = J \cdot \prod_{t \in O} DH_{2q}^{q+t} \prod_{t \in E} DH_{2q}^t.$$

Then we have

$$T = \frac{p^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\phi(e)}{8} + m_1 + n_1}}{\tau(2q)} (\chi(2)^{qn_1 + \sum_{t \in K_2} t} AB)^2.$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
 T &= \frac{\prod_{t \in O} \tau(q+t) \tau(3q+t) \prod_{t \in E} \tau(t) \tau(2q+t)}{\prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(4t)} \prod_{t \in O} DH_{2q}^{q+t} \prod_{t \in E} DH_{2q}^t \\
 &= \frac{\prod_{t \in O} DH_{2q}^{q+t} \tau(q+t) \tau(3q+t) \prod_{t \in E} DH_{2q}^t \tau(t) \tau(2q+t)}{\prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(4t)} \\
 &= \frac{1}{\prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(4t)} \prod_{t \in O} \left(\chi^{2q+2t}(2) \frac{\tau(q+t) \tau(3q+t)}{\tau(2q+2t) \tau(2q)} \tau(q+t) \tau(3q+t) \right) \\
 &\quad \cdot \prod_{t \in E} \left(\chi^{2t}(2) \frac{\tau(t) \tau(2q+t)}{\tau(2t) \tau(2q)} \tau(t) \tau(2q+t) \right) \\
 &= \frac{\chi(2)^{2qn_1+2 \sum_{t \in K_2} t}}{\tau(2q)^{\#K_2} \prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(4t)} \prod_{t \in O} \frac{\tau(q+t)^2 \tau(3q+t)^2}{\tau(2q+2t)} \prod_{t \in E} \frac{\tau(t)^2 \tau(2q+t)^2}{\tau(2t)} \\
 &= \frac{\chi(2)^{2qn_1+2 \sum_{t \in K_2} t} p^{\frac{1}{2}-\frac{\phi(e)}{8}} D}{\tau(2q)} \left(\prod_{t \in O} \tau(q+t) \tau(3q+t) \prod_{t \in E} \tau(t) \tau(2q+t) \right)^2 \\
 &= \frac{p^{\frac{1}{2}-\frac{\phi(e)}{8}+m_1+n_1}}{\tau(2q)} (\chi(2)^{qn_1+\sum_{t \in K_2} t} AB)^2 \quad \text{by Lemma 14.} \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

2.3. Yamamoto's sign ambiguity

Let R_e be the set of quadratic residues modulo e in G . Note that

$$\mathbf{K}_1 \cap \mathbf{K}_2 = R_e,$$

see [4, Proposition 5.1.1]. In other words, an integer t is a quadratic residue modulo 4 and modulo q if and only if t is also a quadratic residue modulo e . Recall A , B and n_0 from Eqs. (1), (2) and Remark 4. Define

$$Y = \frac{p^{n_0} \tau(2q) ABC \prod_{t \in R_e} \tau(t)}{\tau(q)} \quad (8)$$

where

$$C = \chi^{\frac{q}{2}}(q) \chi(2)^{s_1+qn_1+\sum_{t \in K_2} t} \chi(-1)^{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t \in \mathbf{K}_1 \cap (-\mathbf{K}_2)} t}.$$

Theorem 16.

$$Y = \pm 1.$$

Proof. Recall $DH_m^t = 1$ for $1 \leq t \leq m-1$. We will show how $Y^2 = 1$ is a consequence of the (DH) relations.

$$1 = \prod_{t \in K_1} DH_4^t \prod_{t \in K_2} DH_q^t \prod_{t \in O} DH_{2q}^{q+t} \prod_{t \in E} DH_{2q}^t$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \chi^q(q) \chi(-1) p^{1-\frac{\phi(e)}{4}} \frac{\prod_{t \in \mathbf{K}_1} \tau(t)}{\tau(q)^2} \quad \text{by Eq. (4), Lemma 10} \\
&\quad \cdot \chi^{s_1}(4) \chi(-1) p^{\frac{1}{2}-\frac{3\phi(e)}{8}} \cdot J \cdot \frac{\prod_{t \in \mathbf{K}_2} \tau(t)}{\tau(2q)} \prod_{t \in 0} DH_{2q}^{q+t} \prod_{t \in E} DH_{2q}^t \\
&= \chi^q(q) \chi^{s_1}(4) p^{\frac{3}{2}-\frac{5\phi(e)}{8}} \cdot T \cdot \frac{\prod_{t \in \mathbf{K}_1} \tau(t) \prod_{t \in \mathbf{K}_2} \tau(t)}{\tau(2q) \tau(q)^2} \quad \text{by Lemma 15} \\
&= \chi^q(q) \chi^{2s_1}(2) p^{\frac{3}{2}-\frac{5\phi(e)}{8}} \frac{p^{\frac{1}{2}-\frac{\phi(e)}{8}+m_1+n_1}}{\tau(2q)} (\chi(2)^{qn_1+\sum_{t \in K_2} t} AB)^2 \\
&\quad \cdot \left(\frac{\prod_{t \in \mathbf{K}_1} \tau(t) \prod_{t \in \mathbf{K}_2} \tau(t)}{\tau(2q) \tau(q)^2} \right) \quad \text{by Lemma 15} \\
&= \chi^q(q) \chi(2)^{2s_1+2qn_1+2(\sum_{t \in K_2} t)} \chi(-1)^{\sum_{t \in \mathbf{K}_1 \cap (-\mathbf{K}_2)} t} p^{2-\frac{3\phi(e)}{4}+m_1+n_1+S} \\
&\quad \cdot \left(\frac{AB \prod_{t \in \mathbf{K}_1 \cap \mathbf{K}_2} \tau(t)}{\tau(2q) \tau(q)} \right)^2 \quad \text{by Lemma 12} \\
&= \left(\frac{p^{n_0} \tau(2q) ABC \prod_{t \in R_e} \tau(t)}{\tau(q)} \right)^2 \quad \text{by (NR).} \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

Thus we showed that the square of Y depends on the (DH) relations as desired. This induces the following theorem.

Theorem 17. *The equation $Y = \pm 1$ is a sign ambiguity.*

Proof. In [9], K. Yamamoto proved that $Y = \pm 1$ is a multiplicatively independent relationship of Gauss sums which is not direct consequences of the norm and the Davenport–Hasse relations and that it is a sign ambiguity up to a power of p and a unit. \square

3. Main result

We are interested in the problem of writing down sign ambiguities and also explicitly describing the sign in such identities. In this section we give formula to determine whether Y is 1 or -1 .

3.1. Explicit signs

In Theorem 19 we explicitly determine the signs of sign ambiguities by using Stickelberger's congruence for Gauss sums, see [1, Theorem 11.2.1]. Recall that $p \equiv 1 \pmod{e}$. Let

$$f = \frac{p-1}{e} = \frac{p-1}{4q}.$$

For the remainder of this paper we restrict p so that f is even, i.e., $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2e}$.

Lemma 18. *For all $a \in \{1, 2, \dots, e-1\}$,*

$$(fa)!(f(e-a))! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}.$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}(f(e-a))! &= 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdots f(e-a) \\ &\equiv (-1)^{f(e-a)}(p-1)(p-2) \cdots (p-f(e-a)) \pmod{p} \\ &= (fe)(fe-1) \cdots (1+fa) \quad \text{since } f \text{ is even.}\end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned}(f(e-a))!(fa)! &\equiv (fe)(fe-1) \cdots (1+fa)(fa)! \pmod{p} \\ &= (p-1)! \\ &\equiv -1 \pmod{p} \quad \text{by Wilson's theorem.} \quad \square\end{aligned}$$

Note that $\chi(-1)^{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t \in \mathbf{K}_1 \cap (-\mathbf{K}_1)} t} = \chi(\gamma^{\frac{p-1}{2}})^{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t \in \mathbf{K}_1 \cap (-\mathbf{K}_1)} t} = \chi(\gamma)^{fq \sum_{t \in \mathbf{K}_1 \cap (-\mathbf{K}_1)} t}$, because $\gamma^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$.

Let $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{M}} \subseteq \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{E}}$ be rings of integers of the number fields $\mathbb{M} = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_e)$, $\mathbb{E} = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{ep})$ respectively. Let $\mathfrak{P} \subseteq \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{M}}$ be the prime ideal dividing (i.e., containing) the principal ideal $p\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{M}}$ such that χ can be identified with the power residue character modulo \mathfrak{P} , see [7, Theorem 3], that is, for an integer a we have

$$\chi(a) \equiv a^f \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}.$$

Let \wp be the unique prime ideal of $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{E}}$ such that

$$\mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{E}} = \wp^{p-1}, \quad \wp \cap \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{M}} = \mathfrak{P}$$

(i.e., \mathfrak{P} ramifies totally in $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{E}}$); see [6, p. 423].

Theorem 19. Let $s(a) = L_e(a)f$ and $t(a) = (L_e(a)f)!$. Then we can explicitly determine the sign of Y for each prime p , $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2e}$, from the following congruence

$$Y \equiv \frac{(-1)^{n_0} NB't(2q) \prod_{a \in R_e} t(a)}{t(q) \prod_{a \in M_1} t(4a) \prod_{a \in O} t(2q+2a) \prod_{a \in I_3} t(4a)} \pmod{p},$$

where

$$N = q^{\frac{fq}{2}} \gamma^{\frac{f(p-1)}{4} (\sum_{t \in \mathbf{K}_1 \cap (-\mathbf{K}_2)} t)} 2^{f(s_1 + qn_1 + \sum_{t \in K_2} t)}$$

and

$$B' = \prod_{a \in O} t(q+a)t(3q+a) \prod_{a \in E} t(a)t(2q+a).$$

Proof. Let $\pi = \zeta_p - 1$. Then we have, see [1, p. 343],

$$p\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{E}} = \pi^{p-1}\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{E}}, \quad \pi\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{E}} = \prod_{j \in (\mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z})^\times} \wp_j.$$

From Stickelberger's congruence for Gauss sums, see [1, Theorem 11.2.1], for an integer a ($1 \leq a \leq e-1$), we have

$$\tau(a) \equiv \frac{-\pi^{f(e-a)}}{(f(e-a))!} \pmod{\wp^{s(-a)+1}},$$

and

$$\wp^{s(-a)} \parallel \tau(a) \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{E}}, \quad (9)$$

where \parallel means that the largest power of \wp dividing $\tau(a) \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{E}}$ is $s(-a)$. From Eq. (9), we can find all powers of \wp dividing Gauss sums which are involved in Y . For example, $s(-2q) = s(2q)$ is the power of \wp which divides $\tau(2q)$ in Y . Note that $\wp^{p-1} = \wp^{s(-a)} \wp^{s(a)} | p$ by using the norm relation. This implies that $\wp^{n_0(p-1)} | p^{n_0}$. Note that $Y = \pm 1$ is a unit and \wp^w must divide Y , i.e., $w = 0$, where w is given by the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} w = & (p-1)n_0 + s(2q) + \sum_{a \in O} [s(3q-a) + s(q-a)] + \sum_{a \in E} [s(-a) + s(2q-a)] \\ & + \sum_{a \in \mathbf{K}_1 \cap \mathbf{K}_2} s(-a) - s(3q) - \sum_{a \in M_1} s(-4a) - \sum_{a \in O} s(2q-2a) - \sum_{a=1}^{\frac{q-1}{2}} s(-4a). \end{aligned}$$

From Lemma 18, we have

$$\tau(a) \equiv \pi^{f(e-a)} (fa)! = \pi^{s(-a)} t(a) \pmod{\wp^{s(-a)+1}},$$

where $1 \leq a \leq e-1$. Note that $p \equiv -\pi^{p-1} \pmod{\wp^p}$ by applying Eq. (9) to the norm relation, and that the principal ideal (π) in $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_p]$ is prime, since π has prime norm p , see [1, Theorem 2.1.9]. Now we have the following congruence modulo \wp of Y , see [1, Theorem 11.2.10],

$$Y \equiv \frac{(-1)^{n_0} N B' t(2q) \prod_{a \in R_e} t(a)}{t(q) \prod_{a \in M_1} t(4a) \prod_{a \in O} t(2q+2a) \prod_{a \in I_3} t(4a)} \pmod{\wp}.$$

As Y and the values of χ are in $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{M}}$, this congruence holds modulo \mathfrak{P} . Using $\chi^i(a) \equiv a^{fi} \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$ we get a congruence involving only rationals and the theorem follows. \square

3.2. Sign ambiguities

We have revised Yamamoto's sign ambiguities, see [9, Lemma 9] for fixed half-sets and explicitly determined their signs in Theorem 16 and Theorem 19.

Lemma 20. *With K_2 , O and E as in Remark 4, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(2t) &= \prod_{t \in O} \tau(q+t) \prod_{t \in E} \tau(t), \\ \prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(2q+2t) &= \prod_{t \in O} \tau(3q+t) \prod_{t \in E} \tau(2q+t). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Note that $K_2 = I_1 \cup M_1$. For any t in M_1 , there is an odd number $a \in O$ such that $q + a = 2t$ from Lemma 7. From Remark 6. $t \in I_1$ implies that $2t$ is also in K_2 and is even. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(2t) &= \prod_{t \in M_1} \tau(2t) \prod_{t \in I_1} \tau(2t) \\ &= \prod_{t \in O} \tau(q+t) \prod_{t \in E} \tau(t). \end{aligned}$$

The second equation follows from the first equation by adding $2q$. \square

Lemma 21.

$$\sharp(R_e) = n_1 - n_0.$$

Proof. From the reformulated Remark 8 and Proposition 9,

$$\sharp(R_e) = \sharp(\mathbf{K}_1 \cap \mathbf{K}_2) = \frac{q-1}{2} = n_1 - n_0. \quad \square$$

Lemma 22.

$$\prod_{a \in O} \tau(2q+2a) \prod_{b \in M_1} \tau(4q-4b) = p^{n_1}.$$

Proof. From Lemma 7, there exists a number $a \in O$ such that $2b = q + a$ for some $b \in M_1$. Thus we have $4q - 4b = 4q - 2(q + a) = 2q - 2a$. So by the norm relation, we can replace each term by the character value times p . For example, $\tau(2q+2a)\tau(4q-4b) = \tau(2q+2a)\tau(2q-2a) = \chi^{2q+2a}(-1)p = p$ since $2q+2a$ is even. \square

Lemma 23.

$$\prod_{s \in R_e} \tau(4q-2s) = \prod_{t \in K_2} \frac{\tau(4q-2t)\tau(2q-2t)}{\tau(4q-4t)}.$$

Proof. Note that $s \in R_e$ can be written as $s = kq + t$, where $k \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$, $t \in K_2$, and that either $k \in \{0, 2\}$, $t \in O$ or $k \in \{1, 3\}$, $t \in E$. Thus there are two possible cases for s .

Case (1): $s = t$ or $s = 2q + t \Rightarrow 4q - 2s \equiv 4q - 2t \pmod{e}$.

Case (2): $s = q + t$ or $s = 3q + t \Rightarrow 4q - 2s \equiv 2q - 2t \pmod{e}$

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{s \in R_e} \tau(4q-2s) &= \prod_{t \in O} \tau(4q-2t) \prod_{t \in E} \tau(2q-2t) \\ &= \frac{\prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(4q-2t)\tau(2q-2t)}{\prod_{t \in E} \tau(4q-2t)\prod_{t \in O} \tau(2q-2t)} \\ &= \prod_{t \in K_2} \frac{\tau(4q-2t)\tau(2q-2t)}{\tau(4q-4t)} \quad \text{by Lemma 13.} \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Define the following subset Ω of $G = (\mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z})^\times$,

$$\Omega = R_e \cup \{3q\}. \quad (10)$$

Let

$$K = \frac{\chi(-1)C \prod_{t \in \Omega} \tau(t)}{\prod_{t \in \Omega} \tau(2t)} = \frac{\chi(-1)C \tau(3q) \prod_{t \in R_e} \tau(t)}{\tau(2q) \prod_{t \in R_e} \tau(2t)}. \quad (11)$$

Theorem 24. With Yamamoto's sign ambiguity Y as defined in Eq. (8) and K as defined in Eq. (11), the following equation holds:

$$\frac{K}{Y} = \frac{\prod_{t \in (-K_2)} DH_{2q}^{2t}}{\prod_{t \in K_2} DH_{2q}^{2t}} = 1.$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{K}{Y} &= \frac{\chi(-1)C \tau(q) \prod_{t \in \Omega} \tau(t)}{C p^{n_0} \tau(2q) AB \prod_{t \in R_e} \tau(t) \prod_{t \in \Omega} \tau(2t)} \quad \text{by Eqs. (8), (11)} \\ &= \frac{\prod_{t \in M_1} \tau(4t) \prod_{t \in O} \tau(2q+2t) \prod_{t \in I_3} \tau(4t)}{p^{n_0} \prod_{t \in O} \tau(q+t) \tau(3q+t) \prod_{t \in E} \tau(t) \tau(2q+t) \prod_{t \in R_e} \tau(2t)} \quad \text{by (NR)} \\ &= \frac{p^{n_1-n_0} \prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(4t)}{\prod_{t \in R_e} \tau(2t) \prod_{t \in K_2} \tau(2t) \tau(2q+2t)} \quad \text{by Lemmas 20, 22} \\ &\quad \text{Note that } K_2 = I_1 \cup M_1 \text{ and } \prod_{t \in I_2} \tau(4t) = \prod_{t \in M_1} \tau(4q-4t) \\ &= \prod_{t \in K_2} \frac{\tau(4t)}{\tau(2t) \tau(2q+2t)} \prod_{t \in R_e} \tau(4q-2t) \quad \text{by (NR)} \\ &= \prod_{t \in K_2} \frac{\tau(4t)}{\tau(2t) \tau(2q+2t)} \prod_{t \in K_2} \frac{\tau(4q-2t) \tau(2q-2t)}{\tau(4q-4t)} \quad \text{by Lemma 23} \\ &= \prod_{t \in K_2} \frac{\tau(4t)}{\tau(2t) \tau(2q+2t)} \prod_{t \in (-K_2)} \frac{\tau(2t) \tau(2q+2t)}{\tau(4t)} \\ &= \frac{\prod_{t \in (-K_2)} \frac{\tau(2t) \tau(2q+2t)}{\tau(4t)}}{\prod_{t \in K_2} \frac{\tau(2t) \tau(2q+2t)}{\tau(4t)}} \\ &= \frac{\prod_{t \in (-K_2)} \chi^{4t}(2) \frac{\tau(2t) \tau(2q+2t)}{\tau(4t) \tau(2q)}}{\prod_{t \in K_2} \chi^{4t}(2) \frac{\tau(2t) \tau(2q+2t)}{\tau(4t) \tau(2q)}} \\ &= \frac{\prod_{t \in (-K_2)} DH_{2q}^{2t}}{\prod_{t \in K_2} DH_{2q}^{2t}} = 1 \quad \text{by (DH)}. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

We now state our main theorem.

Theorem 25. Let $e = 4q$ with a prime $q \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$, and let p be a prime such that $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2e}$. Let Y and K be as in Eqs. (8), (11). Then the equation $K = \pm 1$ is a sign ambiguity. We explicitly determine the sign by Theorem 19 as follows:

$$K \equiv \frac{(-1)^{n_0} N t(2q) B' \prod_{a \in R_e} t(a)}{t(q) \prod_{a \in M_1} t(4a) \prod_{a \in O} t(2q+2a) \prod_{a \in I_3} t(4a)} \pmod{p},$$

where

$$n_0 = \frac{1}{2} (\sharp(\mathbf{K}_1 \cap (-\mathbf{K}_2)) + m_1 + n_1) - \frac{3\phi(e)}{8},$$

$$N = q^{\frac{fq}{2}} \gamma^{\frac{f(p-1)}{4} (\sum_{t \in \mathbf{K}_1 \cap (-\mathbf{K}_2)} t)} 2^{f(s_1 + qn_1 + \sum_{t \in \mathbf{K}_2} t)}$$

and

$$B' = \prod_{a \in O} t(q+a)t(3q+a) \prod_{a \in E} t(a)t(2q+a).$$

Proof. The proof of this theorem is the immediate consequence of Theorems 24, 19 and 16. \square

Definition 26. If n is an integer not divisible by p , then the unique integer t such that

$$n \equiv \gamma^t \pmod{p}, \quad 0 \leq t < p-1,$$

is called the index of n with respect to the generator γ of \mathbb{F}_p^* , and is denoted by $\text{ind}_\gamma n$.

Now we conclude with an example of our main theorem and provide Table 1 for ambiguous signs of $e = 28$ and prime numbers p up to 10000.

Example 27. Let $e = 28 = 4 \cdot 7$, p be a prime such that $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2e}$, and let $K_1, K_2, \mathbf{K}_1, \mathbf{K}_2$ be as in Example 5. Recall that γ is a generator of the cyclic group \mathbb{F}_p^* and $\chi(\gamma) = \zeta_{28}$. Then with Ω as defined by Eq. (10), we have

$$\Omega = R_e \cup \{3q\} = \{1, 9, 21, 25\},$$

and Theorem 25 gives

$$K = \zeta_{28}^{\frac{7}{2}t_1 + 37(p-1)/4 + 14t_2} \frac{\prod_{t \in \Omega} \tau(t)}{\prod_{t \in \Omega} \tau(2t)} = \pm 1$$

is a sign ambiguity, and the sign is $+1$ if and only if

$$\frac{\gamma^{f(\frac{7}{2}t_1 + 35(p-1)/4 + 14t_2)} (14f)!(22f)!(2f)!(18f)!f!(9f)!(25f)!}{(7f)!(16f)!(12f)!} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

and -1 otherwise, where $t_1 = \text{ind}_\gamma 7$ (i.e., $\gamma^{t_1} = 7$) and $t_2 = \text{ind}_\gamma 2$. By using magma [2] we compute the ambiguous signs for primes $p < 20000$, see Table 1.

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Table 1Ambiguous signs for $e = 28$.

$K = 1$	$p = 337$	449	617	953	2297	2689	3697	4201
	4481	4817	5153	5209	6217	6329	6553	7001
	7057	7841	8233	9521	9689	10193	10529	10753
	11369	11593	12377	12713	13049	13217	14281	14449
	14561	14897	15233	16073	17137	17417	17977	18481
	18593	19433	19489	19937	19993			
$K = -1$	$p = 113$	281	673	1009	1289	2017	2129	2521
	2633	2801	2857	2969	3137	3361	4649	5657
	6833	7393	7561	7673	8009	8513	8681	8737
	8849	9241	11257	12041	12097	12433	12601	13441
	13553	13721	14057	15121	15289	15401	15569	15737
	16633	17921	18089	18257	18313			

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